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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 22 | Humidity 52% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 56,975 | Nifty 17,069 | Gold 50,533 | Silver 62,205 | Dollar 76.56 | Euro 80.51 | GBP 96.07

Foul-smelling sewage from drains flooded 100-odd homes in Rajarajeshwari Layout near Vijinapura after Sunday evening downpour

CAUGHT IN THE DRAIN

Stormwater drain near layout encroached

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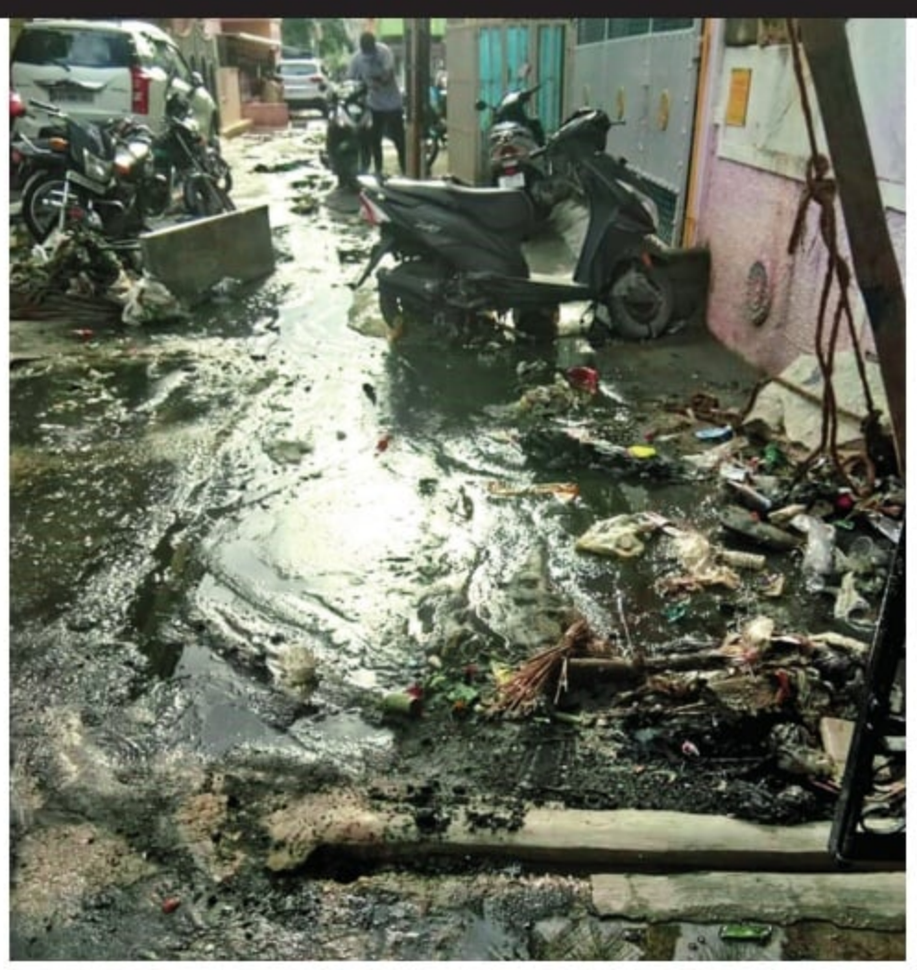

For the citizens of Rajarajeshwari Layout near Vijinapura, every downpour is a nightmare; even the summer shower which is a respite for many. After the city received heavy showers on Sunday evening, yet again, many houses in the layout were flooded with water from stormwater drains (SWD).

Residents said around 100 houses were flooded on Sunday evening with black silt water from the overflowing channels.

"Every time there is a heavy downpour, the stormwater drains get clogged and sewage floods the streets. There are about 100 houses on the 2nd cross, 2nd A cross and 3rd cross streets in the layout. All the houses on these streets get flooded with murky drain water regularly," said Parthiban Sivaprakasam, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Layout.

Apart from grappling with flood water gushing through the streets, residents also have to deal with contamination of water in the underground storage tanks. Sewage entering the sumps spoils water for household use, triggering a health hazard.

"All the houses in the layout have underground sumps for domestic water usage. These sumps are of 5,000-10,000-litre capacity. Once the streets flood, drain water enters the sumps and contaminates the water that residents use for domestic purposes, including for drinking. There are many senior citizens and children in the layout and the situation is nothing more than a health crisis in the making," said Mohan Kumar, another resident of the layout.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

PAGE 3

7 TREES

166 sq m to be acquired, 7 trees to be displaced for Metro at All Saints' church

PAGE 5

SNAIL'S GALLOP

Why many areas in city are now reporting a Giant African Snail menace

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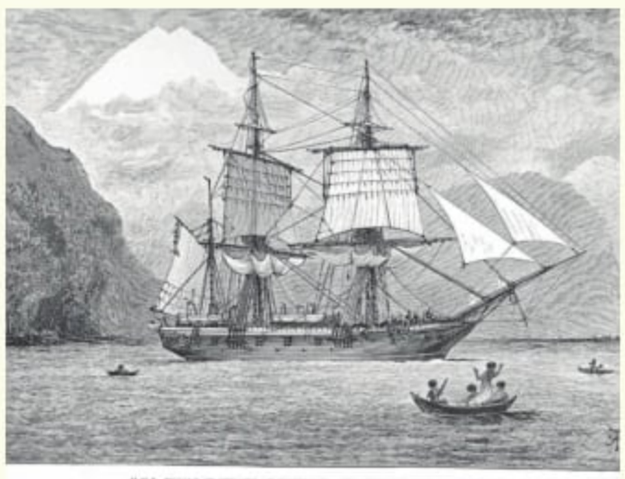
3 THINGS TO DO



01 Bon voyage

Watch 'Natural Selection': a forty-minute audio-visual program, describes Darwin's voyage to Galapagos Islands, the bio diversity he saw there, the keen observations he made and his analysis that lead to the famous book "On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection".
Where: Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium When: May 3-May 15 English at 10:30 am and Kannada at 11:30 am Details: bookmyshow.com

02 Listen up

Listeners' circle is now back after a pause. Listeners' Circle in association with Lahe Lahe will begin again at the venue!! Speak your heart out without fear of judgment and listen without judging
Where: LaheLahe When: 7th May, 4-5:30 pm

03 Braid in time

Macrame is making a reappearance in décor. So, why not learn the art of braiding rope to add character and texture to your living spaces? Amreeta, founder of a sustainable home decor and fashion brand, will take you through a beginner friendly workshop to learn about the basics of this beautiful art form. **Where: Zoom When May 8; 6 pm; Details: hobbeehorse.com**

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Eid is here

A dry fruits seller waits for customers at Shivajinagar and women get their hands painted with henna for Ramzaan, on Monday in Bengaluru

Dance, like you are in a post-pandemic world

Danseuse Madhu Nataraj on staying relevant, reinventing and more

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From being limited to a 16-inch screen to battling an increasingly short attention span, a virus changed everything for performing artistes. Today, even as we slowly traipse into a post-normal world, challenges continue to exist in plenty for dancers. Discussing this and more, danseuse-choreographer Madhu Nataraj is all set to speak at the fourth edition of the Dr Maya Rao Kathak and Choreography Conference. In a freewheeling chat with Bangalore Mirror, Madhu spoke about the need to constantly stay relevant, and reinvent dance in an ever-changing world.

"In our earlier conferences in the past two years, we looked at the changing optics of dance, what would happen in a covid world, etc. Now that we are in a place where we are done with several waves of covid and are still embracing the idea of a covid world, we are looking at how people are reimagining their lives, reactivating their spaces, and how are we regenerating them," explains Madhu.

The conference, being held in memory of the late Dr Maya Rao, a visionary in the field of dance and Madhu's mother, will cover key topics: resilience, adaptation, introspection, community and inner strength. "We analyse rejuvenescence in three parts: reimagine, regenerate and reactivate. What is it to reimagine creation, practice and performance? How do we regenerate innovation and expand the artistic vocabulary? Why is it more important now to reactivate communities and networks that allow art to flourish? We will ask where rejuvenescence lies, whether it is found in motion or stillness, whether in music or in the silence at the end of sound, whether only in the pause between inhaling and exhaling. "Maya Didi, as she was fondly called, was always interested in what was going on around her. How are we relevant today; what are we engaging with... these were some questions she always tried to answer," says the founder-director of the STEM Dance Company and Natya Institute.

Madhu Nataraj with her mother and legendary dancer Dr Maya Rao, in whose memory a conference is being held in the city

> **"As performers, we were always involved in the ritual of gathering people**
> – Madhu Nataraj

"Artistes too are concerned with concepts like climate crisis, political strife, communal tension – they also have a political and social conscious," she says. That's what makes this conference so different, we are looking at a wide spectrum of issues and our panellists are from equally diverse fields, whether it is history or mental health or journalism." Covid is another challenge that artistes are battling. Says Madhu, "As performers, we were involved in the ritual of gathering people. That is where the dance took place, the art took on meaning, and a relationship was born."

Now, she says wryly, performers are dancing and talking to screens. Dance has now come down to a hand-held optic, she explains. So now, the crux of the conference is how do we reinvent ourselves; what worked six months back may not work now. Covid, very ironically, taught us that – nothing is permanent. Another fact that the danseuse points out is that despite some bits of the world adapting to a pre-covid life, most people are still stuck in a limbo of sorts. We have to try to adapt to people's attention span going down, she explains. These 30-second videos on social media have added to this issue where flashy optics get more eyeballs rather than subtance, she says. Not just viewers, Madhu says performers too have changed. Concepts have become more tactile; the meaning of time has been reinvented. Online and offline spaces have a different definition now.

Catch the conference on May 3 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, from 3 pm to 8 pm.

IT'S A SAVE

How public action helped avert felling/shifting of 100 trees. Only 7 trees will now have to make way for Metro

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Against 4,582 square metre of the sacred grove of All Saint's Church that was proposed to be acquired by the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), only 166 square metre would now be taken over permanently and 218 square metre temporarily. Moreover, only seven trees would be felled or relocated, as against over 100 heritage trees that were proposed to be destroyed.

The members of All Saints Church gathered on Monday afternoon to share details of how they could save the 150-year-old heritage site and hundreds of trees from being taken over by BMRCL for Metro construction.

The event shed light on the legal aspects and campaign support that helped the congregation preserve the heritage site and its biodiversity. While there were legal remedies, public action was preferred.

"The congregation chose to resist this move through peaceful protests, which were joined by hundreds of people from across Bengaluru, from all religious and cultural backgrounds. At a time when the meeting of minds is so very rare, this effort stands out as representative of the enormous possibilities of democratic engagement," said Ebenezer Premkumar, member of All Saint's Church.

According to the church members, the Detailed Project Report and Environment Impact Assessment of the Bannerghatta Road to Nagawara metro line had proposed the station would be to the west of Hosur Road on government property, opposite the church. However, when the plans matured, the line was shifted in a way that a station was proposed inside the church campus.

In 2019, All Saints congregation, with the help of the Environment Support Group, drew the attention of the European Investment Bank (EIB), which is financing this section of the metro.

"They proposed a conciliation mechanism and minor concessions were made. It helped in bringing to the attention of BMRCL that several worthier alternatives existed. This included building the station within the already acquired land of the church in three layers. Even better, to shift the station to the Hotel Vellara building, which would make it equidistant from Langford Road and M G Road stations, increasing footfall given that students would be more likely to use the station," added Premkumar.

"Throughout this process, and even through the lockdowns, people came together, protesting against the destruction of the sacred groove, resulting in an incredibly positive result after the hardship of almost four years," said a church member.

> **"The congregation chose to resist this move through peaceful protests, which were joined by hundreds of people from across Bengaluru**

Bangalore Mirror

Church requests to translocate seven trees somewhere nearby as forest department readies to remove them for Metro work

TREE WILL

Trees in question 50-100 years old

A

PSI exam scam: Spotlight firmly on prime accused

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The focus of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing into the police sub-inspector recruitment scam is now on the prime accused Divya Hagaragi's educational institution which was selected as the PSI examination centre based on a recommendation letter by a sitting Member of Parliament (MP).

Hagaragi's Gyana Jyothi English medium School has been in the news after she along with the school principal and two other teachers were arrested following evidence gathered by the cops on PSI recruitment examination malpractices. OMR sheets' manipulations and candidates were allowed to use bluetooth devices through which answers were dictated to the candidates are the allegations that are being probed by the CID officials. Candidates who had indulged in malpractices have paid ranging from Rs 35 lakh to Rs 80 lakh to politicians for getting selected as PSIs, CID sources said. Soon after Hagaragi's arrest the ruling party distanced themselves from the BJP women wing leader stating that she had affiliations with Congress leaders. Former home minister Ramalinga Reddy told the Bangalore Mirror that with the arrest of Divya the ruling party is trying to save big fish including senior police officials and politicians involved in the PSI examination scam by misleading people. "Not only is Divya a BJP Women wing's leader, but also she is a nominated board member by the BJP ruling party government who is now arrested in the scam," said Reddy.

CID sources, on Monday, also said that a PSI candidate named Darshan had paid Rs 80 lakh to a relative of a BJP politician for getting selected as a PSI.

FAKE NEWS BUSTER MIRROR

DENMARK HAS NOT STOPPED COVID VACCINATIONS

THE CLAIM

Some messages and even news reports suggested that Denmark is stopping all covid vaccinations as it had a low rate of infections. And vaccine sceptics were soon to draw their own conclusions.

SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

News agency AP had reported that Denmark had no such plans. There was a plan to stop sending reminders to people about their upcoming vaccination dates. The country will not be aggressively pushing the covid vaccination programme. This has nothing to do with efficacy of the vaccine. Also, any person who wished to could still get vaccinated in the country. This also comes at a time when Danish health officials had declared that 1.1 million excess covid-19 vaccines will be discarded in the coming weeks because their expiration date is near, and efforts to donate them to developing countries have failed.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOPCOMMENTS

Get the wires out of the way, let people walk in peace

Our story 'Wires, injurious to health' has got a few responses from readers. **Ragavan K writes on Twitter,** keeping wires dangling on the roadside is not advisable. These definitely cause harm to the people who are walking and riding. Wires should be properly affixed and not hamper the movement of people. A reader Saswati writes, time and again there is talk of a drive to get the city rid of OFC cables, but there is hardly and improvement in the situation. How long do we have to put up with such dangers and now that one life is lost, who is responsible? A reader has commented on the BM website, we are so used to unfulfilled promises, as it is hard to believe that some concrete action will be taken on this.

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

- Semiconductor plant in Karanataka
- Bunking pain for KSRTC
- Kombucha in Mars

After rain, Varthur's roads are slushy mess

Each time work on the dug-up road was stalled, officials told residents there was shortage of manpower or blamed it on rain. Now it can't be salvaged

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The condition of roads in Varthur, according to residents, are beyond salvaging. After Sunday's downpour, the situation further deteriorated, they said.

The Idgah road turned into slush, all through the stretch.

Residents staying close by can't walk across the road. They can't even commute through the stretch, they said. The road was earlier dug up to lay underground pipelines; however, later, it was fixed. The work was moving at a slow pace and every time the work stalled, officials told the residents there was a shortage of manpower or blamed it on rain.

There are over 18,000 people living on either side of the road in apartment complexes and individual houses. The area is all dug up. Now the residents have nowhere to go after the rains as all the roads are covered in slush.

All dug up

Residents pointed out that the Bangalore Water Supply Sewerage Board (BWSSB) does not have a proper plan before starting to dig up roads. Though laying of pipelines serves an essential purpose, not completing the work on time and pushing it for long, causes inconvenience to the local residents. Jagadish Reddy, resident of Varthur, said, "The work has been going on for a long time and it's causing a problem to all the residents. Now with the slush, people are barely able to move around. There is no other alternative route to reach the main road, except from this stretch. It is an important road that is used daily. But after the rains even vehicles can't move through the road."

This is a condtion of the Idgah Road in Varthur. Residents say this is the condition since it was dug up for pipe laying work

> **"There is literally no road. It's a slushy place with people living nearby. The water stagnates in some places and gives space to mosquito breeding** – Resident of the area

Residents told BM that after they complained to the BBMP, a JCB was sent to clear the slush; however, the condition further worsened and the slush wasn't cleared up. "In the past few months, even while there was no rainfall, works were not being carried out on time. Now we are told we will have to wait till the rains stop. Children can't even go out to play.

They have to stay inside. Since it is summer holidays, they are at home. When schools start again, even the school vans would not agree to come in," said a resident. Another resident pointed out that if one were to pass by the road on a two wheeler, one would surely fall down as the situation is so bad.

"There is literally no road. It's a slushy place with people living nearby. The water stagnates in some places and gives space to mosquito breeding, creating a health hazard," he said.

Overflowing drains wreak havoc

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pumping out the contaminated water from all the houses is impractical, the residents added. They are left with no other option but to put up with muddy brown water running through their taps.

"We will now be getting brown-coloured or yellowish water in our taps for the next ten days that smells like sewage. We cannot pump out all the water from every sump in the affected houses. While some of us will resort to boiling the water before using it, the rest will depend on water cans until the sumps are cleaned and the stench goes away," said Sivaprakasam.

According to the residents, the issue has been raised in the ward committee meetings many times, but no solution has been proposed. "This is not a new problem. Those living in this layout have been facing this problem for the last 20-25 years. We have been sharing our concerns on the ward committee WhatsApp group for a long time now; but nothing has moved on the ground. All the officials are aware of the situation," added Sivaprakasam.

According to Ruben Harry, another resident of the layout, it is mostly the old houses that are facing the brunt. "When it rains, the streets of the layout get inundated with water-logging up to two feet. The newly constructed houses are raised above the road level; it is the old houses that are taking in the drain water. My house is over 35 years old, and it gets filled with black silt water multiple times during the rainy season. The water is black and foul-smelling. All my furniture has been destroyed. It is very difficult to remove the silt stain and stench from the floor and furniture," said Harry.

Encroached SWDs

Residents pointed out that the solution lies in tweaking the stormwater drain and diverting a part of the water away from the layout. "People have constructed houses on stormwater drains in the area and the water has been diverted to the layout. Though BBMP had replaced the old pipes a couple of years ago, the problem persists. Drain water gushes inside our streets and carries a lot of garbage into our houses. Promises are made during every election, only to be broken later," said Kumar.

According to officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), while stormwater drains are being desilted regularly, the problem can be solved only if the houses that are illegally constructed on SWDs are demolished.

"SWDs have to be widened to solve the issue. However, the majority of the SWDs around the layout have been encroached completely. There is no buffer left to widen the existing drains. We have constructed retaining walls in the buffer area available. There is no space to shift the water pipes out of SWDs. While we have informed the BWSSB regarding the diversion requirement, their hands are tied too. Encroachment took place years ago and to solve this problem now, all the houses will have to be demolished. We are monitoring the area regularly. Flooding in the layout depends on the quantum of rainfall. If there is heavy rain, it will flood invariably," said the official.

1st Death Anniversary

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The axe men

Whitefield

Residents want to know why trees are being cut for no reason by the Railways at Whitefield

Parched public

City Railway Station

Why is public money spent for other things, when there is no water in the taps for two months now? DRM says water at Platform 1 is for the public, but do people have to pay for platform ticket if they are thirsty?

Danger sticks out

Mattikere

As the concrete is not laid properly, iron rods are sticking out and posing a threat at Mattikere 80 feet road near Chowdeshwari Bus stop

Good scene & scrumptious bites: All roads lead to KGF

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During the 1950s and 60s, Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) was the second largest City in the State after Bengaluru. However, with decrease in gold production and subsequent closure of the gold mines, KGF too gradually lost its importance. There were neither big industries nor tourism places around to attract tourists. However, the abandoned mines and mound are now turning to be favourite spot for tourism. With KGF movies (both the chapters) becoming blockbusters, KGF tourism is now on a revival path.

Sunil Kumar, a resident of KGF, said, "It is common to see many movies shot near the Egyptian pyramids. However, as it became too common, many movies including Kannada, Telugu and Tamil were shot near the Cyanide hills (a mini hillock made of the debris from the gold mines). As songs shot near the Cyanide hills became popular, it created a lot of tourist interest and many are heading towards KGF for weekend trips. Most of the tourists to the city are from Bengaluru as the closed gold mines are located at a distance of 100 kilometres from the State capital." Another advantage for KGF is its proximity to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. So, with Kannada movie like KGF being released in other languages as well, the tourist flow to KGF has been steady.

For Bengalureans, KGF also has a gastronomical purpose. "The latest craze in Bengaluru is the Bangarpet chats where the water served is almost transparent. It is believed that the origin of the Bangarpet panipuri is from a town called as Bangarpet nearer to KGF. With Bangarpet chain gaining popularity in Bengaluru and a number of YouTube channels popularising Bangarpet panipuri, many of the travellers from the city head to visit Cyanide hills and also savour Bangarpet panipuri en route," said SP Lakshmeesha, food vlogger and a hotelier from Bengaluru.

Much interest in abandoned mines ever since the KGF movie franchise shone spotlight on area

Meanwhile, there is a demand to convert the gold mines into a museum as it will help visitors to understand the process as well as history of KGF. However, Union Minister for Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi has said that there is no such plan. During a recent Lok Sabha reply, Joshi said, "With respect of BGML (whose operations are shut since March 2001) has submitted its report."The report has recommended the mining activities have been abandoned since closure and is flooded with sub-surface ground water. Hence, the existing underground mines are not accessible.

The mines are shut since 2001

Invasion of the giant snails

Latest pests to invade Namma Bengaluru are proving troublesome to gardening lovers

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The giant African snails love moist surroundings and appear soon after spells of rain

Of late, Benglaureans have uninvited guests (or rather pests) at their homes! Many areas in the city are now reporting the Giant African Snail (GSA) menace. The snails have already created nuisance in the neighbouring Kerala and now it is turn of Bengaluru and other regions of south interior Karnataka where snails are making way into homes or porticos. The International Union of Conservation of Nature has considered GSA as one of the 100 most invasive species on this planet.

Rajini Shree, a homemaker and a resident of T Dasarahalli said, "I have been residing here for the past three decades but had never seen a snail near my home. However, for the last few months, the snails are all around. I encounter scores on a daily basis while cleaning the house premises in the morning. Surprisingly, every day, we clean and remove and yet the next day, scores of GSA are back." Divya R, a resident of Peenya added, "While we were tired of other pests like cockroaches or lizards, GSA is the latest addition to our home. They need to be carefully evicted."

In fact, the menace of GSA is such that many entomologists are doing research on the harmful effects of snails and methods to prevent its intrusion. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Entomologist Prabhu Ganiger from the Department of Entomology, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra, University of Agricultural Sciences (off Yelahanka) said, "The snails are back with the rains. The moist surroundings aid its growth. We have got complaints that they have become nuisance at homes. If there is a congenial atmosphere, then their reproduction will be more. The worst part is that it is very difficult to catch." The Invasive Species Specialist Group's (ISSG) global invasive species database says, "There is a huge risk of GSA being spread and introduced into new locations via trade routes. It is frequently moved with agricultural products, equipment, cargo and plant or soil matter. The snail's ability to store sperm is a distinct advantage and could enable a founding population to form from just one individual."

"We have got complaints that they have become nuisance at homes. If there is a congenial atmosphere, then their reproduction rate is high –Prabhu Ganiger, GKVK

In fact, the neighbouring State of Kerala is one of the worst affected where people have found unique and peculiar ways to catch these snails. There have been reports of competition to catch the snails to awarding Re 1 for catching a single snail. There is still a big debate as to how these snails reached the Indian shores. Media reports from Kerala suggest that a researcher brought it from Singapore a quarter century ago. However, Ganiger's research points to a longer story. "According to the GKVK study, a Britisher in 1847 had brought these snails to Kolkata for food. Then, another Britisher introduced them to Mussoorie (hill station in the present Uttarakhand). In 1979, these snails were first found in a farm land at Siddapura near Bengaluru and since then have slowly and steadily spread," Ganiger told Mirror.

The biggest worry is now the reproduction rate. According to ISSG's global invasive species database, "Snails can lay up to 100 eggs in their first year and up to 500 in the second year. These snails may live up to five years with a total egg clutch of up to 1,000." Ganiger added, "The mating of these snails will take up to 1.5 hours. After mating, both the snails involved lay eggs and these eggs may take a week or fortnight to hatch."

The eggs will be difficult to spot as they will be very small in size and yellow in colour. These snails become active with the first spell of rainfall and continue to be seen till the winter. These snails come out in the evenings and go in search of food. The snails will be seen mostly between 6 pm to 3 to 5 am next day before it sneaks back to its habitat (cracks in walls or tree stems) for hiding.

Incidentally, it is not just Bengalureans who are at the receiving end while tackling the GSAs. Even the farmers in the hinterland are facing problems. "These have become problematic for farmers also. The GKVK has done extensive study on GSAs as they attack vegetables, areca and turmeric crops. The farmers have been told to remove the snails by hand by holding a powerful light in the evening. Many have tried to use poison bait technology in curbing the snail menace with limited success," added Ganiger.

Border row: 'Won't cede an inch'

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday appealed to the politicians of Maharashtra to give up raising border issues for their political survival and said there is "no question of ceding even an inch" of the state's land. "The state government's stand is very clear on the border issue," he told media persons after participating in a function organised by the Social Welfare Department. His statement comes a day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar backed his government's campaign of supporting the fight of Marathi-speaking people residing in border areas of Karnataka to include them in Maharashtra. Noting that there are many Kannada speaking areas in Maharashtra, Bommai said that "the state government is mulling to take up their cause too." **ANI**

Acid attack: 7 teams formed chase culprit

The Karnataka Police have formed seven teams to nab the man who threw acid on a woman for refusing his marriage proposal, said officials on Monday. The police had formed three teams earlier which was increased to five. The accused, identified as Nagesh, has been absconding since April 28 -- the day the attack happened. The police teams have gone to neighbouring states also in search of the accused. Police Commissioner Kamal Pant earlier had said that the accused would be arrested by Saturday evening. The police have detained the accused's elder brother and parents in connection with the case. They have also taken 20 more persons into custody. Meanwhile, hospital sources said that the victim was recuperating and responding to the treatment well. She was being treated in the ICU. **IANS**

The green breaks through concrete

Meenakshi Layout residents come up with plan to make sure trees can be planted even alongside white-topped road

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As more and more concretisation spreads through the city, there is hardly any space left for new green cover to be installed. Residents of Meenakshi Layout found a new way to maintain green cover, despite the white-topping. In the coming months, residents hope to see a canopy of trees growing on both sides of the road.

Roughly a month ago, when the roads were being white-topped, residents placed 110 cement rings on the sides; leaving the minimum require space for trees to be planted.

"Within the five crossroads present in the locality, we planted 110 trees with the help of Adamya Chethana Foundation. As it's not the main road, there is no space for a footpath, which could have been used as an alternative option. A month ago, when the authorities wanted to white-top the 25-feet road, we procured 110 1.5-feet long cement rings and placed them on both sides of the road. We also didn't want to damage the road and it's not easy to bore a hole into the 5-inch concrete road. Within three days we dug up 110 pits and placed the rings. We made sure that while laying the concrete road, the rings were not covered with concrete or disturbed from their positions. Further, we placed tree guards around them to protect the young saplings for six months," said Ateeq, a member of the Meenakshi Residents Welfare Association.

"We wanted to add more trees as they will help in keeping the locality cooler and replenish the groundwater as well

– Yaseer Arif, a resident of the locality

The citizen project has been reportedly implemented at the cost of Rs 55,000 in total. Citizens had to expend Rs 500 per tree including labour costs, sapling costs, manure, soil and tree guard. Fifty per cent of the cost was borne by the NGO involved.

To make sure the roots don't crack the concrete, residents have dug 2-feet deep pits with the assumption that roots won't grow above that and would rather grow sidewards. They also haven't planted trees like mahogany or Ashoka for the same purpose and chosen local trees with soft roots. 80 per cent of the stretch has been planted with Honge trees.

He added, "In the city, larger stretches of roads are being cemented and there is a growing problem of depleting groundwater level. Bengaluru is becoming less and less of a garden city every day."

"In our layout, there were fewer trees due to a lot of houses in the area. We wanted to add more trees as they will help in keeping the locality cooler and replenish the groundwater as well," said Yaseer Arif, a resident of the locality. Appreciating the initiative, tree expert, Vijay Nishanth, said every stretch in the city is being concretised preventing the water from seeping in. "We are also holding campaigns across the city to remove concrete around trees. BBMP Commissioner has to instruct the contractors to leave sufficient space around the tree. Due to rapid urbanisation, places to plant trees are reducing at a fast pace," he said.

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I, SHREYAS SUBHASH NADKARNI S/o Subhash Nadkarni, R/at No. A-10, Ananda Ashrama, 13th Cross, 10th Main, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, have changed my name to SHREYAS NADKARNI vide affidavit dated: 2/5/2022 Before Notary K.P.Ramesh Bangalore.

I, Kothapalli Santha Kumari W/O, Kuthapalli Krishna Murthy R/o 20-303, Mantri Residency, Bannerghatta Road, 560076 Bangalore have changed my name to Shanta Kumari Murthy / Shanta K Murthy for all purposes.

I Jonathan Pereira S/O, Philip Neri Pereira R/o #38, 2nd Cross, Varanasi Main Road, Jinkethimmnahalli, Bidarahalli Hobali, Bangalore-560036 have changed my name to Jonathan Pereira Philip Neri for all purposes.

I, Sanjaya Jadav B S/O, Babu Rao R/o No 007. Ground Floor Premier Gruhalakshmi Appt. South End Rd. Basavanagudi. Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to Sanjay Jadav B for all purposes.

I, ARATHI SADARA JOSHI, W/o, RAJIV SADARJOSHI residing at No.18, Akshaya, 3rd Cross, Bikasipura, J.P Nagar, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to ARATHI RAJIV SADARJOSHI vide affidavit dated 27.04.2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, SHASHIDHAR, S/o, MUNIYAPPA residing at No.35, Kurki Village, Narasapura Post, Kolar - 563133 (Now Camp At Bangalore) have changed my name to SHASHIDHAR MUNIYAPPA vide affidavit dated 29.04.2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I Mahesh Vinod Pande W/o #45 ganga appa complex, Miller's road, vasanth Nagar,next to jain hospital Bangalore 560052 have changed my name to aajit Vinod dutt for all purposes

I, NAFEEZA SULTANA, R/at No.02, 6th Cross,New 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Nagar,Old Guddahalli, Bangalore - 560026. I Have changed my name to NAFEEZA AZAM, , Vide Affidavit Dated: 23/04/2022. Sworn before Notary: M.K.Devaki, Advocate,

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Others	Computer	MCA/BCA with Min. Exp. of 2yrs
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Scaled the peak already?

Some experts say current upsurge in covid cases is much more muted than Omicron wave

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With a small spike in covid cases in city, face masks became essential once again

Is this the onset of the fourth wave? As covid cases have started increasing, experts are debating as to when will the cases peak? Citing an IIT report, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar had said that covid wave may peak in June. However, other sources say that the peak (if at all there is a new wave now) will be much earlier.

According to a covid tracker developed by researchers at Cambridge Judge Business School and National Institute of Economic and Social Research, working with Health Systems Transformation Platform in India, the filtered daily growth rate of new cases in India stood at 9.5% on April 23 and since then it has risen steadily.

The report says that on a positive note, the current upsurge, following a 12-week long spell of declining infection, has been much more muted than the Omicron wave which took off towards the end of last year.

"Furthermore the trajectory of the daily growth rate of cases has softened in recent days. Grounds for national level optimism follow from patterns observed in Delhi and Haryana – the two territories currently leading growth of infection in India where the filtered daily growth rates peaked on April 20. Their daily growth rates are currently declining gradually towards zero, at which point daily cases will peak. That is likely to occur in another 15 to 25 days. At present, apart from Delhi and Haryana, infection is growing at concerning rates in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Infection is growing in another 14 states including Karnataka though at low rates from lowercase numbers," the report stated.

> **Grounds for national level optimism follow from patterns observed in Delhi and Haryana**
> –Covid tracker report

The report further added that aggregated over states and union territories at various stages of upsurge, the national level growth rate of cases has not yet peaked though the peak appears to be close. The decline phase will follow but the daily growth rate is likely to remain positive over the coming three to four weeks during which period daily cases in India can be expected to continue to increase.

On Monday, Karnataka reported 111 Covid cases including 103 in Bengaluru with zero Covid casualties. Only 6,224 tests were conducted with a test positivity rate of 1.78% across the State.

Political anxieties ahead of Shah visit

The Karnataka state BJP is witnessing heavy political activity as Union Home Minister Amit Shah is arriving in Bengaluru Monday late night.

The visit has assumed importance in the backdrop of Shah coming with a specific mission of finalising the decision on cabinet expansion or reshuffle. He would also hold talks regarding the various happenings in the state and strategise for the state Assembly elections in 2023.

Amit Shah is also expected to clear the air regarding the leadership change issue, which has come to the forefront after the statement by party National General Secretary BL Santhosh. He had stated that change of leadership is the strength of BJP. The experiment had yielded good results in Punjab and Gujarat, he added.

Former Chief Minister, senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa stated on Monday that he would be meeting Shah. "He is visiting the state in the backdrop of the developments in the state as we have entered the election year," he said. Yediyurappa further stated that Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would focus more on Karnataka now. They would give suggestions and directions towards winning 150 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections. "We will discuss with them," he said.

"It is the responsibility of the central leaders to decide on the tickets for the Assembly elections to the sitting MLA's," he said.

Yediyurappa maintained that there will be "no change of leadership in the state BJP" as per his knowledge. **IANS**

Volunteers reclaim lake from litter, trash

16-yr-old gathers team to clear garbage from Doddanekundi lake premises

Iffath Fathima @timesgroup.com
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Volunteers collected 10 bags of waste on the day

Sunday was a day well spent for over 50 volunteers, who cleared out 10 bags of garbage from the Doddanekundi lake premises. Found at the lake area were 80 kg of plastic and glass.

The initiator of this campaign is all of 16 -- Renee. A resident of an apartment complex in Doddanekundi, Renee wanted the lake premise to become a cleaner space for the visitors and daily walkers.

"Having been a resident near the lake for more than 13 years now myself, I have had to watch the condition of the lake deteriorate and its still water slowly be encroached upon by the green algae that quickly took over its surface. Today, only certain areas around the lake have clear patches of water visible, as a reminder of what once was. I didn't realise how badly the lake needed help, until I saw all the plastic and other waste material thrown around the lake," she said.

She got together the residents of the apartment (Adarsh Vista Villa Owners Association) and even organisations like Namma Bengaluru Foundation, Rotary E Connect and Rotary Interact joined in and conducted the Plog drive at Doddanakundi Lake.

Renee said, "As we gathered at the lake, we quickly became the largest and loudest group there- heads were turned and interests had been piqued. Garbage bags were distributed, gloves were donned, and we headed out to find all the plastic that we could. Plastic bottle caps, plastic bags and covers, delivery packing and an infinite number of paan and candy wrappers were what we spent the next hour scouring the floor for," she said.

> **I didn't realise how badly the lake needed help, until I saw all the plastic and other waste thrown around it**
> –Renee, intiator of the campaign

The team was covered in sweat by the end of their endeavour. "As the drive came to an end and volunteers trickled back home, we laughed on the walk back home, as we felt the urge to pick up every piece of plastic we saw on the road. I guess that's how I know the drive was a success- what may seem like was for our temporary satisfaction created some long lasting impact," she said.

Vinod Jacob from NBF said the lakes are being used as garbage dump yards.

"We found that there public needs to be educated and made aware with signages mentioning fines in case of littering. The lake marshals are not active. Stringent action against dumping all sorts of debris in lakes has to be stopped. We even found flex boards with name of institutions and phone numbers in the lake," he said.

Centre okays TN aid to Sri Lanka
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin thanked the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for accepting TN's request to supplement India's aid for Sri Lanka

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No individual can be forced to be vaccinated, says SC

#New Delhi

Observing that bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated against covid-19, the Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre to make public data on the immunisation's adverse events.

The top court, however, said in the interest of protection of communitarian health, the government is entitled to regulate issues of public health concern by imposing certain limitations on individual rights, which are open to scrutiny by constitutional courts.

"With respect to the infringement of bodily integrity and personal autonomy of an individual considered in the light of vaccines and other public health measures introduced to deal with the covid-19 pandemic, we are of the opinion that bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated. Further, personal autonomy of an individual, which is a recognised facet of the protections guaranteed under Article 21, encompasses the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health," a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said.

A health worker administers a dose of covid vaccine to an elderly man, in New Delhi

The cour upheld the government's current vaccination policy. "On the basis of material, reflecting the near-unanimous views of experts on the benefits of vaccination, this Court is satisfied that the current vaccination policy of the Union of India is informed by relevant considerations and cannot be said to be unreasonable," it said. **– PTI**

Russia-Ukraine war will have 'no winner'

PM Modi asserts country is on the side of peace during his visit to Germany, says war is creating burden on poor

#Berlin

Asserting that India is on the side of peace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that India believes there will be no winner in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and all will suffer losses.

Addressing a joint press event with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz here, Modi said that from the start of the Ukraine crisis, India has called for immediate cessation of hostilities and stressed that talks are the only solution to resolve the dispute.

"We believe that there will be no winner in this war and all will suffer losses. Therefore, we are on the side of peace," he said.

"Due to the disturbance caused by the Ukraine crisis, oil prices are sky rocketing, there is a shortage of food grains and fertilizers as a result of which every family in the world has been burdened," he said.

Modi said that the effect of this on developing and poor countries will be much more.

He also said India is also concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

On his part, Scholz said Russia has violated the UN charter by attacking Ukraine. He said he has also invited Prime Minister Modi for G-7 summit in Germany. Modi arrived in Berlin on Monday morning on the first leg of his three-nation Europe trip that will also take him to Denmark and France. **– PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz after signing the green & sustainable energy partnership, at the Federal Chancellery, in Berlin on Monday

DGCA finds plane was on 'autopilot mode' during turbulence accident

#New Delhi

SpiceJet Boeing B737 aircraft operating the Mumbai-Durgapur flight was on "autopilot mode" when it faced turbulence leaving fourteen passengers and three cabin crew injured, a preliminary report by India's aviation watchdog Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has revealed.

"During this period, the autopilot got disengaged for two minutes and the crew manually flew the aircraft. Aircraft reported to Durgapur ATC that few passengers were injured due to turbulence and requested medical assistance after landing," the DGCA report said.

Further, the DGCA investigation highlighted it was a close shave for over 190 passengers on May 1 at Durgapur airport. "Spice jet B737-800 aircraft VT-SLH operating flight SG-945 (Mumbai-Durgapur) encountered severe turbulence during descent. There was a total of 195 persons on board the aircraft including 02 pilots and 04 cabin crew members. The aircraft took off from Mumbai at approx. 1713 IST. During descent, the aircraft experienced severe turbulence and the vertical load factor varied from +2.64G and -1.36G," DGCA's initial probe report stated.

Meanwhile, the aviation regulator has off-rostered the involved crew, the aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) and in charge of the maintenance control center of spice-jet. The DGCA officials are presently in Kolkata and have met the injured passengers. **– ANI**

SpiceJet aircraft faces air turbulence during its descent, in Durgapur on Sunday.

Court 'crossed limits' in bail order observations

#Guwahati

The Gauhati High Court on Monday said the observations made by a Barpeta court in its order granting bail to Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani for allegedly assaulting a woman police officer "crossed its limits" and "demoralised" the police force and the government of Assam.

The high court, however, did not pass any opinion on the grant of bail to Mevani, a Dalit leader and a legislator supported by the Congress. The Barpeta court had pulled up the state police for lodging a "false FIR" against Mevani and requested the high court to consider directing the Assam Police to "prevent registration of false FIR like the present case and the police personnel firing and killing or injuring accused which has become a routine phenomenon in the state".

Hearing a petition filed by the Assam government challenging the bail order passed by Barpeta District and Sessions Judge Aparesh Chakraborty, Justice Debashis Barua said his remarks related to the working of the police and the government were beyond the jurisdiction of the lower court, Justice Barua said. Regarding the lower court's observation that the police had registered a "false case" , he said there was no abuse of the process of law or the court. **– PTI**

MLA Jignesh Mevani addresses a press conference at the AICC headquarters, in New Delhi

Sizzling heat may have claimed 25 lives in Maharashtra

#Mumbai

The ongoing unprecedented heat wave in Maharashtra - with mercury rising to 46 degrees Celsius in some areas - has claimed at least 25 lives so far, the highest since 2016, with the number of heat-stroke cases standing at around 375, officials said on Monday.

The state Health Department's Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said that with the temperatures soaring to record highs in the past 100 years, Maharashtra has witnessed the highest - 25 - fatalities due to the heat wave, with many more suffering. "Chandrapur is among the global hotspots with temperatures hovering around 46 degrees Celsius. However, the IMD has said that in the next few days, there may be respite from the heat as pre-monsoon showers are likely in many parts of the state," Awate told IANS, while urging people to take precautions.

Ironically, the usually cool hill-station of Mahabaleshwar - where people from all over the state flock during summer - has become an furnace at 31 degrees, while its neighbouring twin, Panchgani recorded 32 degrees - yet, making them the "coolest" locales in the state.

Large parts of the state have been reeling under temperatures between 35 and 46 degrees since March-end onwards, particularly northern, and central parts of the state besides the traditional hotspots of Marathwada and Vidarbha boiling between 40C-46C. This is the highest toll due to heat-wave in the past seven years in the state, said Awate, with 19 deaths notched in 2016, followed by 2 in 2018 and 9 in 2019. **– IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Darker, strong smelling urine can be a sign of dehydration whereas very clear urine that looks like water may mean you're drinking too much, too quickly

Turmeric contains curcumin, which can reduce skin inflammation and help manage psoriasis

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Using BMI to measure your health is nonsense. Here's why

HEALTH IS NOT A NUMBER

We're a society obsessed with numbers, and no more so than when managing our health.

We use smartwatches to count steps and track our daily activity, creating scores for our fitness, and monitor our heart rate and sleep quality to measure our health and well-being.

Doctors can be just as obsessed with numbers, relying on measurements and equations to create scores for our health, one of the most popular of which is the Body Mass Index (BMI).

But BMI – a measure of the relationship between your weight and height – is increasingly under scrutiny. More and more experts are questioning its accuracy and health practitioners' fixation on using it as a single indicator of health and healthy weight.

Here's everything you need to know about BMI – and why using it as the sole measure of your health is nonsense, starting with a quick history lesson.

Where did BMI come from, and why is it associated with health? The concept of BMI was developed in 1832 (yes, almost 200 years ago!) by Belgian statistician Lambert Adolphe Quetelet, who was called on to create a description of the "average man" to help the government estimate obesity numbers among the general population.

Fast-forward 100 years to the United States, where life insurance companies had started comparing people's weight to an average population weight for similar individuals to calculate insurance premiums based on a predicted risk of dying.

Annoyed by this somewhat unscientific approach, US physiologist Ancel Keys completed research with 7,000 healthy men using Quetelet's measure, finding this method was a more accurate and simpler predictor of health that was also inexpensive.

Quetelet's calculation was subsequently renamed BMI and adopted as a primary indicator of health, thanks to subsequent studies confirming increased risks of heart disease, liver disease, arthritis, some cancers, diabetes and sleep apnoea with increased BMI.

Its use soon became widespread, and today, BMI is found everywhere, from the doctor's surgery to the gym.

How is BMI measured, and what do the scores mean?

The BMI formula is simple, and easy to calculate thanks to the many free BMI calculators available online.

To calculate BMI:

- take your weight in kilograms
- to get your index, divide your weight by the square of your height in metres.
- Your result classifies you into one of four categories describing your body weight in a single word:
- underweight – a BMI of less than 18.5
- normal – a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9
- overweight – a BMI between 25.0 and 29.9
- obese – a BMI of 30 or above.
- So is BMI an accurate measure of health?
- In short: no.
- While BMI is an accessible and affordable way to screen a person's health, it shouldn't be relied on as a single measure of health.

Here's why.

BMI misses a more important measure – body fat percentage

BMI is based on body weight, but a person's disease risk is linked to body fat, not weight.

While body weight can be a proxy for body fat, there's an important reason it doesn't always tell an accurate story: muscle is much denser than fat.

Because BMI calculators can't differentiate fat from muscle, people can be easily misclassified. At the extreme, BMI has classified athletes in peak fitness condition, such as sprinter Usain Bolt, as almost overweight, and American footballer Tom Brady as obese.

BMI does not measure body fat distribution

Numerous studies have found people with the same BMI can have very different disease risk profiles, primarily driven by where fat is distributed in their bodies. This is because not all fat is equal.

If you have fat stored around your stomach, your risk of chronic disease is much higher than people who have fat stored around their hips, because this is an indicator of how much visceral fat you have – the type of fat deep inside the belly that increases your risk of stroke, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

In white populations, a waist circumference of more than 80cm for women and more than 94cm for men is associated with an increased risk of chronic disease, and for Asian populations it is more than 80cm for women or 90cm for men.

BMI does not account for demographic differences

The BMI is something none of us like – racist and sexist.

When Quetelet created and Keys validated BMI, they studied largely male, middle-aged Anglo-Saxon populations. Their method prevails, even though BMI's calculations and classifications are used universally today.

Our bodies, by nature, have some distinct characteristics driven by our gender, including that females generally have less muscle mass and more fat mass than males. We also know muscle mass decreases and shifts around the body as we age.

Research has also confirmed significant differences in body weight, composition and disease risk based on ethnicity. This includes findings from the early 2000s that found on measures for optimum health, people of Asian ethnicity should have a lower BMI, and people of Polynesian ethnicity could be healthier at higher BMIs.

This issue has led to suggested redefined BMI cut-off points for people of Asian ethnicity (where a healthy BMI is less than 23) and Polynesians (where a healthy BMI is less than 26).

So what should we be using instead?

To be clear: weight and health are related, with countless studies demonstrating people who are obese or overweight have an increased risk of disease.

But while BMI can be used as a screening tool, it shouldn't be the only tool relied on to assess a person's health and healthy weight.

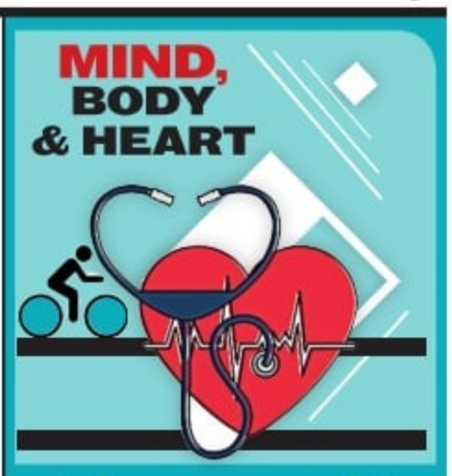
Instead, we need to focus on measures that tell us more about fat in the body and where it's distributed, measuring weight circumference, waist-to-hip ratios and body fat to get a better understanding of health and risk.

We also need to consider the many other ways to measure your health and likelihood of disease, including levels of triglycerides (a type of fat found in your blood), blood pressure, blood glucose (sugar), heart rate, presence of inflammation, and stress levels.

As a single measure, BMI is not a good measure of health – it lacks accuracy and clarity and, in its current form, misses measuring the many important factors that influence your risk of disease.

Although BMI can be a useful starting point for understanding your health, it should never be the only measurement you use.

By Nicholas Fuller, University of Sydney,The Conversation



All you need to know about...

Leg cramps

What is it?
A muscle that is cramping is in spasm. They're usually harmless and can happen at any time. But they are very painful and can last from a few seconds to 10 or more minutes, with the pain stopping you from moving. Leg cramps can affect the calf muscle, muscles in the feet and the inner and outer thighs. After the cramp has stopped, the muscle might feel tender for up to 24 hours.

What are the causes?
The precise reason for some cramps is unknown but they get more common with ageing. Prolonged strenuous exercise, pregnancy – usually in the last trimester – and medications for lowering cholesterol (statins) or high blood pressure (diuretics) can be to blame, as can dehydration and cirrhosis of the liver. Things you can do yourself Most cramps go away eventually with little more than stretching and massaging the muscle. I've found walking around helps. There's no point taking paracetamol or ibuprofen for cramps as they take too long to work, but they will help with muscle tenderness afterwards.

When to see the GP? See your doctor if they disturb your sleep or you also have numbness or swelling in your legs. If cramps started after you started taking a particular drug, ask your doctor if you can change it.

What's the treatment?
Stretching exercises help and there are quinine tablets, if they are very bad and exercise hasn't helped.
As it can affect the heart, quinine isn't suitable for everyone and has to be taken with care.
Never take quinine without prior discussion with your GP to discuss potential risks and side effects.

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror

Kakuro

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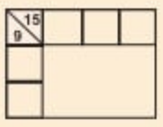
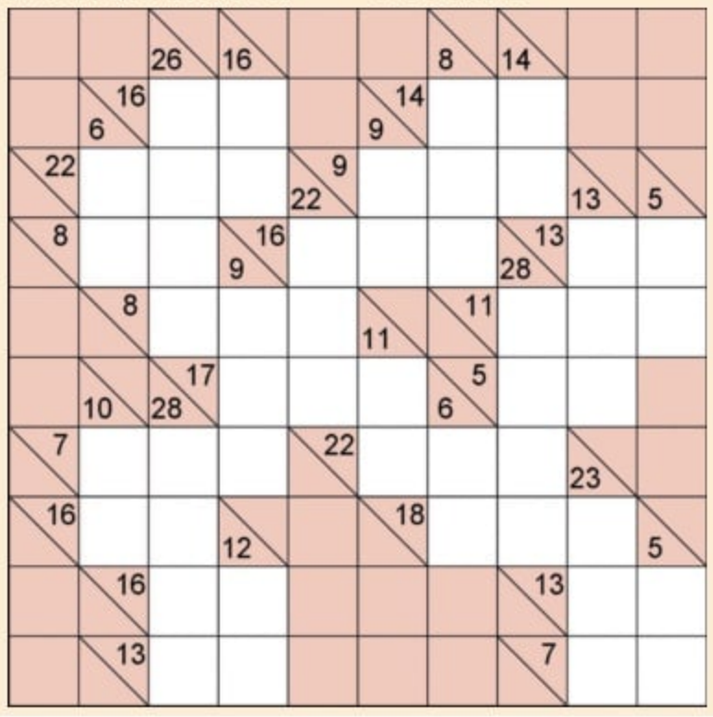
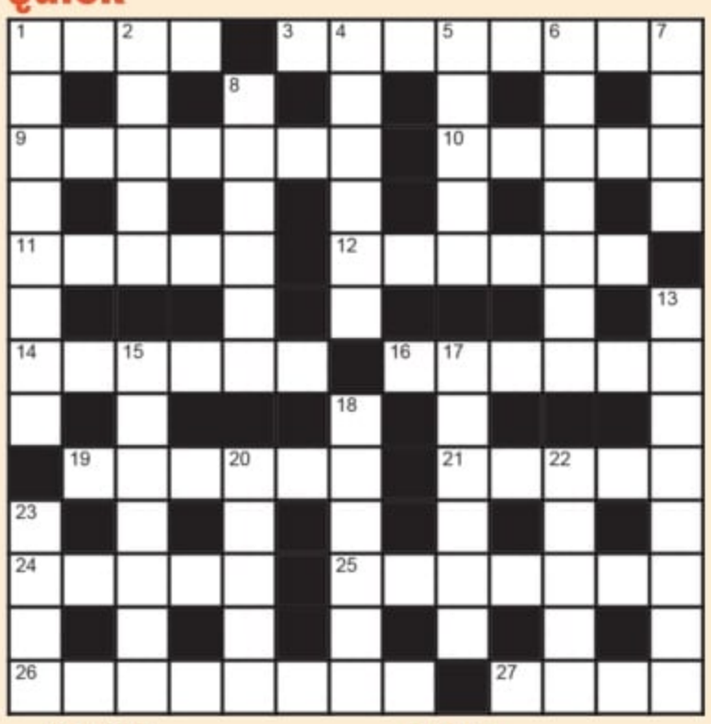


Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 To give up (4)
3 Playhouses (8)
9 Unsettle (7)
10 Pillages or loots (5)
11 Did an usher's job (3,2)
12 Seem or look? (6)
14 Made good (6)
16 Took offence with (6)
19 Spanish festival (6)
21 Japanese porcelain (5)
24 Caribbean Republic (5)
25 Violent storm (7)
26 Hatch a plot (8)
27 Fastener (4)

DOWN

1 Big posh American car (8)
2 Gave medicine (5)
4 Bangalore lake–"Blab he "anagram (6)
5 Fable writer (5)
6 Ex-U.S. President ___ M. Nixon (7)
7 Frame (4)
8 Subtle difference (6)
13 Hooked (8)
15 Point of view (7)
17 Turn of phrase (6)
18 Synagogue singer (6)
20 Supply meagrely (5)
22 Turn aside (5)
23 Stylish (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS I

RL'W CBZL CT VTZGP ZSLTG CT LBRPX CT XPYC RL ZVV LBZL KYFPLW.

Linemaro

When god made you, he was in rare form

Mindchow

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom

Joke of the day

I know a guy addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time

Loop

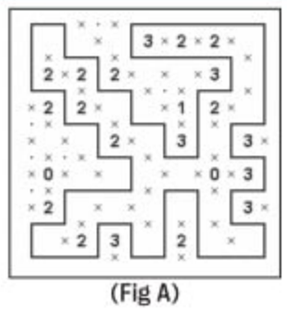
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

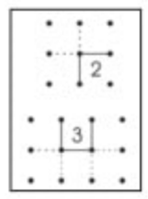
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

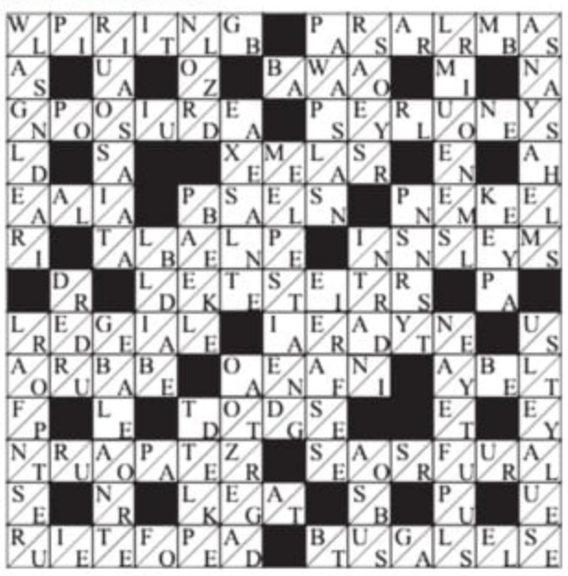


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

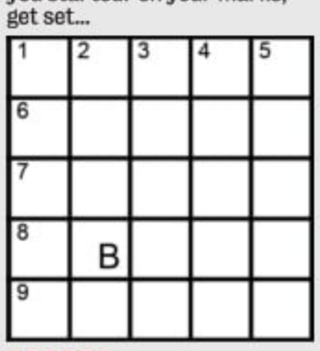
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Scamp; 6 A due I;
7 Roast; 8 So bee;
9 Robed

DOWN

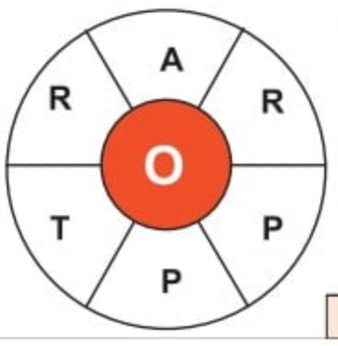
1 Cobra; 2 Boo ad;
3 Remit; 4 A seep;
5 Sues D

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?

61314-

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9					1		8
		1						7
2				4	1	3		
3	5			7	2			
			3	9			7	1
		4	8	5				3
6						2		
1		8					4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 26

5 5 8 8

Medium = 7

2 2 3 7

Hard = 13

3 5 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

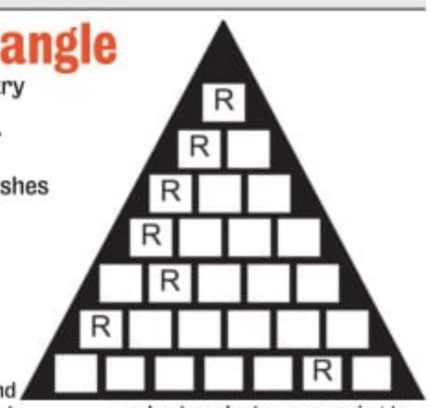
Differences: 1. Page is added to newspaper. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Arm is shorter. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Cuff is added to sleeve. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

Riddler

Find the missing number 2 5 3 9 ? 1 16 7 3 2

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Concerning
3 Colour of danger
4 Go on a bicycle
5 Helps with the dishes
6 Washed lightly
7 Recognise



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

DON'T DESPAIR, TANGLEFOOT... WITH MY VAST KNOWLEDGE I'LL TEACH YOU TO BE A SUPERB ARCHER IN NO TIME!
FIRST, GRASP THE BOW FIRMLY WITH YOUR LEFT HAND
2-17
THIS MAY TAKE LONGER THAN I EXPECTED
Yaters/Casson

Bizarrotrip

I'll pay for a custard pie if you give me a banana cream for free.
PIE KING
K2
NOW SERVING
Wayno & Piraro 2-28-22
BIZARRO.COM
BOGO the CLOWN

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THE MISS CHIPPY CHIP JR. PAGEANT IS IN TOWN! I'M GONNA APPLY!
WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?
A CROWN, $500, AND THEY'LL GET TO DO COMMERCIALS ON TV, ON TELEVISION?! THIS COULD BE MY BIG BREAK INTO CHILD ACTING!
IMAGINE WHAT YOU COULD BUY WITH $500!
A LIFETIME OF BROADWAY SHOWS!
AUTHOR'S NOTE: DEAN HAS NO CONCEPT OF MONEY. $500 WILL COVER MAYBE FOUR TICKETS.

Crankshaft

SOS MEDIA LLC IS A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION...
SOS
THAT HAS BEEN CREATED WITH ONE SPECIFIC GOAL IN MIND...
CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2-24
TO 'SAVE OUR SENTINEL'!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, you may use your creativity at the office or at home, which may enhance your social status. You may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. Love birds are likely to get some support from their family members if they wish to marry. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Today, you may be relaxed after a messy situation. Your inner strength may help you implement some difficult decisions in business, which may take the business to newer heights. You may help needy people around, which may raise your social status. Students might have clarity in choosing their career options.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today you may feel dull. Your health may not be good. You may also have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone important investments in business or real estate. You are advised to avoid hurried driving. You should avoid long-distance travel. You may do some meditation, as it will help you sleep well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Today, blessings from elders' may make you happy. Your investments may give you profits. Losses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest for your child's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today, you may enjoy work. You may get some promotion after your hard work. You are likely to help some needy person. Your social status may be raised now. Overthinking may make you feel tired. Due to work-load, you may not be able to reach some family get-together events. Your parents' health may be better today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Today, projects that were stopped without a reason may start automatically. You may be satisfied at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious places to bolster your internal strength. Your elders may show you the right path, which may help you achieve your goals.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today you may feel dull. You may also face health issues. It is advised to keep your mind cool. Read documents carefully before signing on them. You may face some difficulty in recovering your money. You are also advised to avoid going for adventurous outings. Students are advised to go for in depth study to get success. You may be attracted by the occult also.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You may be busy at home. You may buy some artefacts or creative items to deck up your house, which may bring you much appreciation. You may also invest in properties and other fixed assets. You are likely to enjoy romantic moments with the spouse, which may create an emotional bond. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Today you may feel happy. Old health issues that elders were suffering from may be cured. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may boost your financial health. People who are in jobs may change their job seeking a promotion. Job seekers may get jobs with the help of a friend's reference.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Today you may prefer to gather knowledge. You may understand the value of intellectual assets. Sometimes you may have to control your short temper, which may help you perform your task smoothly. There may be some chances of earning an income, which may give you comfort in your workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in immovable assets. You are likely to spend money for your loved one. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

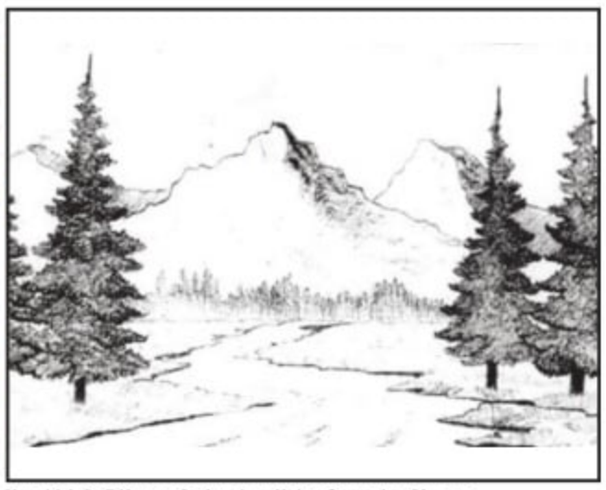
Today, you may feel dull. You may not be able to enjoy your time. You may be in a hurry to complete the task given to you. You may make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may be slow, which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects are likely to be delayed, which may affect your professional life. Before taking any important decision, you are advised to listen to your elders.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Today, you may feel energetic. You may be more focused, which may speed up your current task. Your subordinates may help you start a new project, which may give you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your personal needs. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of a job.

KIDZONE

M Vaishnavi, 8 Years, K V Malleshwaram



Varshith B, 7 Yeras, Sudarshan Vidya Samsthe, Mysore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

=[(4)^2+64+1]/(9-6)
=[16+64+1]/3
=81/3
=27

BULL'S EYE

atop, parrot, port, RAPPORT, raptor, roar

FAST FIVE

C	A	M	P	S
A	D	I	E	U
R	O	T	A	S
O	B	E	S	E
B	O	R	E	D

RIDDLER

4; (5-3=2, 9-4=5, 4-1=3, 16-7=9, 7-3=5, 3-2=1)

QUOTE UNCODE

It's what we learn after we think we know it all that counts.

STRIKE OUT

W	I	R	I	N	G		P	S	A	L	M	S		
A		U		O		B	A	A		I		A		
N	O	S	I	D	E		P	Y	L	O	N	S		
D		S		X	M	A	S		N			H		
E	L	I		P	A	E	S		P	E	K	E		
E		R		L	E	A		B		U		E		
T	R	O	P	E	Z		E	A	R	F	U	L		
A	R	A	B		O	N	A	N		Y	E	T		
R	E	G	A	L		I	R	A	T	E		S		
R		A	B	E	L	E		I	S	L	E	S		
E	L	I		P	A	E	S		P	E	K	E		
D		S		X	M	A	S		N			H		
N	O	S	I	D	E		P	Y	L	O	N	S		
A		U		O		B	A	A		I		A		
W	I	R	I	N	G		P	S	A	L	M	S		

QUICK

C	O	N	S	P	I	R	E		S	T	U	D		
I		O		M		O		S		R		E		
H	A	I	T	I		T	E	M	P	E	S	T		
C		N		K		N		O		V		C		
F	I	E	S	T	A		I	M	A	R	I			
C		P			D		C				D			
A	T	O	N	E	D		M	I	N	D	E	D		
L		C		L				R				A		
L	E	D	I	N		A	P	P	E	A	R			
I		E		A		B		O		H		H		
D	I	S	T	U	R	B		S	A	C	K	S		
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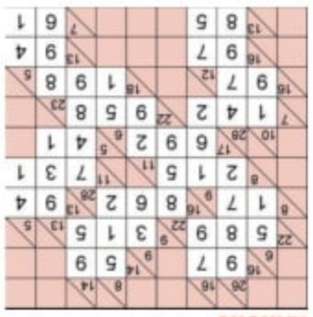
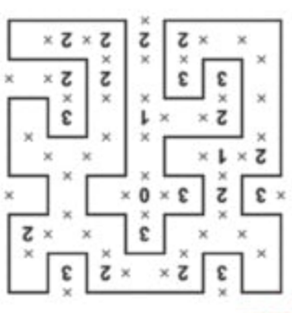
C	O	E		T	H	E	A	T	R	E	S			

KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE

R, Re, Red, Ride, Dries, Rinsed, Discern.

GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 5 + 8 + 5 = 26
Medium
7 + 3 / 2 + 2 = 7
Hard
3 x 4 + 6 – 5 = 13

SUDOKU

4	9	3	7	6	5	1	2	8
5	6	1	2	3	8	4	9	7
2	8	7	9	4	1	3	5	6
3	5	9	1	7	2	8	6	4
7	1	6	5	8	4	9	3	2
8	4	2	3	9	6	5	7	1
9	2	4	8	5	7	6	1	3
6	7	5	4	1	3	2	8	9
1	3	8	6	2	9	7	4	5

MENSA PUZZLE

5. The numbers are the alphabetical positions of the letters, spelling FACADE: 6-F; 1-A; 3-C; 1-A; 4-D; 5-E.

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 # Eyes peeled for 'Avatar: The Way of Water' first look

The first look of James Cameron's upcoming film 'Avatar: The Way of Water' will be attached to Benedict Cumberbatch-starrer 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness', which is all set to hit the screens on May 6.

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EAT FRIES & WALK THE RAMP

That's just how actor Athiya Shetty musters courage and confidence before a glitzy event

Athiya Shetty rocked the ramp in Rishi and Vibhuti's designer outfit at the Bombay Times Fashion Week in Mumbai. During the red carpet interaction with ETimes, the actress talked about getting back on the ramp post-Covid, how she deals with scrutiny and more.

When the actress was asked about how she felt to be back on the stage after the pandemic, Athiya said, "It feels amazing. Before, I always get on to the ramp, I am super nervous and jittery. And my tradition is, not an intentional one, but before I walk on the ramp, I eat French Fries. That's my thing, that I do to boost my courage and confidence, so I did the same thing today. I have done fashion weeks without a crowd, through zoom and all of that. I feel it's just amazing to be back, with the audience, the energy, the models, hustle-bustle behind the stage. It feels very nice.

> "I don't believe that anything is not fashionable, because I think it's personal and it's art

Talking about one fashion trend that she would ditch, Athiya shared, "Firstly, I don't believe in fashion faux pas and I don't believe that anything is not fashionable, because I think it's personal and it's art, so it's subjective. If I am not comfortable with something, I will not wear it and I will show it in my body language. Then automatically, the designer won't give me that outfit.

When Athiya was questioned about how she deals with scrutiny being a public figure, she said, "I think, over the years, you just have to learn to tune things out, stay true to yourselves and seeking validation is something that is drilled into our system, not only as actors but also as people, social media is really a tricky place to be on. I think we should learn to tune off the noise."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Athiya was last seen in 'Motichoor Chaknachoor' tarring Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

—ETimes

'Fortunate to have Katrina as wife'

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif broke many hearts when they tied the knot in an intimate-yet-lavish wedding ceremony in Rajasthan last year.

In a recent interview with Hello! magazine, Vicky spoke about his better half. He said, "Katrina is a great influence in every aspect of my life. I'm very fortunate to have found a life partner in her because she's an extremely wise, intelligent, and compassionate person. I learn a lot from her every single day."

Vicky and Katrina rarely speak about their relationship in public. They are often seen sharing pictures with each other on Instagram with their fans and they go viral in no time. The newlyweds went on a tropical vacation after the wedding and resumed work soon after.

On the work front, Vicky will next be seen in Meghna Gulzar's 'Sam Bahadur', Laxman Utekar's untitled next with Sara Ali Khan, 'Govinda Naam Mera' with Bhumi Pednekar and Kiara Advani, Aditya Dhar's 'The Immortal Ashwatthama' and Karan Johar's 'Takht'.

Met Gala 2022: All you need to know

Often referred to as the 'Biggest Night of Fashion,' Met Gala is a fundraising event for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York.

After several pandemic postponements, this year's Met Gala will be held on the first Monday of May; eight months after 2021's star-studded red carpet that saw stellar looks.

The star-studded event brings together the world's largest celebrities to celebrate fashion in unique costumes.

At least five Indians, Isha Ambani, Priyanka Chopra-Jonas, Natasha Poonawala and Deepika Padukone have made stunning appearances at the event in the past (**pics from Instagram**).

When and where is the Met Gala taking place?
Traditionally taking place on the first Monday of May each year, Met Gala 2022 is set to take place on May 2. The Gala takes place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Where to watch the Met Gala 2022?
The event will be live-streamed on Vogue's website as well as its digital platforms on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, making it easy for all to see the biggest names from movies and fashion in Hollywood. In India, the live stream starts at 3:30 am on Tuesday.

What is the theme of the Met Gala 2022?
This year's Met Gala theme is 'In America: Fashion Anthology,' celebrating the museum's next exhibition on May 5. The dress code for the 2022 event is 'Gilded Glamour and White Tie', referring to the extravagant era of American fashion in the last decades of the 19th century, when industrialization rapidly widened the wealth gap in the country.

Who are the hosts of the Met Gala 2022?
This year's event is hosted by the couple of Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, with Regina King and Lin-Manuel Miranda as co-hosts. Tom Ford, Adam Mosseri, and Anna Wintour will serve as the honorary chairs for Met Gala 2022.